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INTERNATIONAL APPLN. NO. PCT/EP00/05522	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 15 June 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 17 June 1999
TITLE OF INVENTION DISCHARGE VALVE FOR CO <sub>2</sub> -PRESSURE CYLINDERS		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US KIEFER, Rainer		

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓  
Please cancel original Claims 1-19 and substitute the following new Claims 20-39:

20. A discharge valve for CO<sub>2</sub> pressure cylinders, comprising a flow passage (8) for CO<sub>2</sub> gas, a valve element (10) which is actuable from the exterior and which can assume various positions and which in at least one of said positions closes the flow passage and in at least one other of its positions opens the flow passage through a valve opening, and connecting means for fixedly and sealingly connecting the discharge valve to a CO<sub>2</sub> pressure cylinder, wherein a flow resistance is provided in the flow passage (8), which flow resistance is independent of the valve opening and wherein the flow resistance is such that at a temperature of 20°C and a CO<sub>2</sub> gas flow rate of 0.5 g/s it causes a pressure drop of at least 1 bar.